

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /061 W  
-----067773 201154Z /13

R 192050Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6997  
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0360

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, EC  
SUBJECT: MILITARY STILL CONSIDERING BLOCKING BUCARAM

REF: QUITO 0330

1. IN A CONVERSATION JANUARY 18, ADMIRAL POVEDA, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THE MILITARY IS STILL CONCERNED ABOUT A BUCARAM PRESIDENCY AND THAT THEY ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY OF DISQUALIFYING HIS CANDIDACY. WHEN THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THE JANUARY 15 REFERENDUM RESULTS INDICATED BUCARAM'S POTENTIAL ELECTORAL WEAKNESS, POVEDA AGREED BUT HAD NO GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THE OTHER PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE'S ABILITY TO EXPLOIT THIS WEAKNESS.

2. POVEDA INDICATED THAT THE MILITARY MIGHT USE A PROVISION IN THE MILITARY CODE WHICH REQUIRES THAT OFFICERS HAVE NATIVE ECUADOREAN PARENTS, THE IDEA WOULD BE THAT SINCE THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES, HE SHOULD ALSO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT. BUCARAM, WHOSE PARENTS WERE LEBANESE IMMIGRANTS, WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE DISQUALIFIED.

3. COMMENT: POVEDA'S COMMENTS INDICATE THE MILITARY'S CONTINUED OPPOSITION TO BUCARAM AND THEIR RELUCTANCE TO  
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TRUST IN HIS DEFEAT AT THE POLLS, EVEN IN THE FACE OF THE ENCOURAGING REFERENDUM RESULTS. IT IS NOT CLEAR HOW THIS POSSIBLE IMPEDIMENT WOULD BE ORCHESTRATED. PERHAPS A SUIT COULD BE BROUGHT AGAINST BUCARAM WHICH WOULD BE FINALLY RESOLVED IN THE SUPREME COURT, AN INSTITUTION THE MILITARY HAS JUST PACKED AND WHICH COULD BE EXPECTED TO DEFER TO THE GOVERNMENT'S WISHES.

4. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DISCUSSIONS OF HOW TO AVOID  
A BUCARAM PRESIDENCY HAVE TAKEN PLACE EVER SINCE THE  
MILITARY PORPOSED STEPPING DOWN. BUT DURING EARLIER  
DEBATES, A BUCARAM ELECTORAL TRIUMPH APPEARED MUCH MORE  
CERTAIN THAN IT DOES NOW FOLLOWING THE RESULTS  
OF THE JANUARY 15 REFERENDUM. EVEN GIVEN POVEDA'S  
COMMENTS, IT IS QUESTIONABLE WHETHER THE MILITARY WILL  
NOW CHOOSE TO BLOCK BUCARAM WHEN THEY HAVE NOT  
TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF EASIER OPPORTUNITIES IN THE PAST.  
BLOOMFIELD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 19 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** MILITARY STILL CONSIDERING BLOCKING BUCARAM  
**TAGS:** PINT, EC, (BUCARAM, ASSAD)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014